DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kantan Kumaran, I shall ask the Land Revenue Commissioner to hold a detailed enquiry into the delay in the disposal of all the cases of registry that you have mentioned. I am afraid it will not be possible to allow the members of the depressed classes to enter upon and proceed with the cultivation of the lands they have set their eyes on before the registry is made; for one reason, it will lead to encroachment; for another reason, it will mean that the lands will not be subject to assessment while yielding profits by cultivation, because, as the Member knows, the rules prevent recovery of arrear assessments from the depressed classes who are allowed the registry of lands. Nor can the Government permit, as the Member requests, inroads of uncontrolled and indiscriminate gatherers of head-loads from the forest reserves.

2. Free passes cannot be given because a large number of uncontrolled people will go and damage the reserves.

157. Concessions to the Paraya community.

MR. KANTAN KUMARAN (*Member, Nominated*) requested that Paraya boys and girls who had reached class V in Vernacular schools and those who were studying in English schools should be encouraged by giving them special scholarships. Several Paraya boys who had completed the seventh class course in Vernacular schools had to discontinue their studies as they were too poor to pay the fees for the Vernacular School Leaving Certificate Examination. The Government should issue orders for such Paraya boys being admitted for the examination without their having to pay the admission fee. The rules regarding minimum marks for a pass in the examination should also be relaxed in the case of the Paraya candidates.

An orphanage for the benefit of a large number of destitute Paraya boys and girls should be instituted at Sastankotta in the Kunnattur taluk.

A Tamil school for the Paraya children should be established at Marankulam in Kallupara.

Parayas who could read and write should be given suitable appointments in the Police and other departments.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kantan Kumaran, the Police Commissioner assures me that he has repeatedly told your representatives that, if they send up recruits who fulfil the requirements of the Police Department in every way, he will be very glad to employ the members of your community in the Police Department. At the same time, he says that it is rare that a candidate suitable in every way is brought forward.

2. I shall have the whole position of scholarships to children of the members of the depressed classes reviewed by the Director of Public Instruction very shortly. So too, I shall ask him to examine the need or justification for a special Tamil school for Parayas at Marankulam in Kallupara. Nothing definite can be said in regard to the orphanage at Sastankotta which you mentioned.

158. Needs of Hindu Pulayas.

MR. KURUMBAN DAIVATTAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that it was an acknowledged fact that the Pulayas were at the bottom of the scale in the matter of education. So far as the Pulaya community was concerned, primary education should be made compulsory. Only 7 per cent. of the Pulayas were literate. Realising this fact the Government had granted fee concessions; but that was not all. The poverty of the community was so stern that, if a Pulaya did not work for a day, he had to go without food. That being the case, it would be impossible to put the boys to school unless the Government helped them with noon meal. The Government were spending large sums of money on English and Vernacular education. In 1100, the allotment in the budget for the Education Department was nearly Rs. 40 lakhs. The recipients of the benefit were not the Pulayas for whom the Government were spending only Rs. 20,000 nearly out of the total allotment. In respect of the other communities the average annual expenditure per student was 27 chs.—14 cash. If the same rate was allowed to the Pulayas, they should be entitled to Rs. 2 lakhs which would be more than sufficient to meet the expenditure on the

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noon meal and all other educational needs of the community. In view of the fact that the Pulayas were long an illiterate race, the minimum of marks required for promotion in schools should be reduced by 50 per cent. So also in regard to attendance the minimum required should be reduced to two-thirds. Pulaya boys should be admitted to public examination without payment of the prescribed admission fees as they were too poor to pay even that. They should also be exempted from the regulations in regard to dress. They could not afford the luxury of coats or shirts. As was done for the Mahomedans, a special Inspector to watch the educational progress of the Pulaya community should be appointed.

The Police Department should have instructions to take immediate action in cases where the Pulayas were molested by others. They should be given at half the tariff rates 200 candies of *maruthi*, *ventekku* and other timber from the Ranni reserve.

16,000 acres of land had been earmarked for assignment in the several taluks of the State. Out of these, only 1,345 acres of land had been registered in the names of the Hindu Pulayas. 243 applications for registry of lands were still pending disposal. This might be due to the fact that the applications related to lands which could not be assigned. But it was also due to the fact that suitable lands were registered to people other than the Pulayas. The system of sale of lands by auction should be stopped until the needs of the Pulaya community were satisfied. In taluks where there were no *tarisu* lands available, river *porambokes*, road *porambokes*, grazing grounds, silted up tanks, etc., should be registered to them. The following is a list of lands which the Pulayas wished to be registered in their names :—

Quilon taluk.

Portions of Survey Nos. 1954, 2324, 2795, 2385, 3265, 4187 and 781 in Nedumpanakkal *pakuthi.*

Kottarakkara taluk.

Survey No. 295/1 in Kottarakara *pakuthi.*

Ambalapuzha taluk.

The Illichira grazing ground.

Vaikam taluk.

Survey No. 417/1 D in Talayazham *pakuthi*, Vechur *kari*, 457·51 acres. Besides these, the swampy areas within the reserved forests should be disafforested and registered to them.

The Member also requested that the pay of the *Proverthikars* should be enhanced as they were a poor class of Government servants who demanded their sympathy. The necessity for affixing half a rupee stamp on applications for registry of land, etc., should be dispensed with in favour of the Pulayas.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Kurumban Daivattan, the list of *puduval* lands will be examined by the Land Revenue Commissioner and the needful will be done. As regards noon-day meals to the school-going boys of the community, I shall consider the matter in consultation with the Financial Secretary and the Chief Secretary, and see if the necessary arrangements can be made.

2. The Commissioner of Police and other heads of departments will be given instructions to see that the members of your community are not given any trouble.

3. Your other points will be considered.

159. The needs of the Saliya community.

MR. S. M. SUBRAHMANYAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that 95 per cent. of the Saliyas were daily wage-earners who could not afford to get for their children the benefit of higher education even though the Government were spending large sums of money every year on the Education Department. Saliya pupils should be given half-fee concession in schools and colleges.

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